

REMARKS

This Amendment is responsive to the Office Action dated June 28, 2004. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of **claims 1-9, 14, 16-17 and 19**.

The Office Action

Claims 1 and 2 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Stein (U.S. Patent No. 5,167,556).

Claims 14 and 18 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Isokawa (U.S. Patent No. 6,121,637).

Claims 3-6 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Stein (U.S. Patent No. 5,167,556) as applied to claim 1 above and further in view of Reeh (U.S. Patent No. 6,576,930).

Claim 7 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Stein (U.S. Patent No. 5,167,556), Reeh (U.S. Patent No. 6,576,930) and further in view of Kish (U.S. Patent No. 6,015,719).

Claim 8 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Stein (U.S. Patent No. 5,167,556), Reeh (U.S. Patent No. 6,576,930) and further in view of Roberts (U.S. Patent No. 6,335,548).

Claim 9 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Stein (U.S. Patent No. 5,167,556), Reeh (U.S. Patent No. 6,576,930) and further in view of Lester (U.S. Patent No. 5,777,433).

Claim 16-19 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Isokawa (U.S. Patent No. 6,121,637) as applied to claim 14 above and further in view of Reeh (U.S. Patent No. 6,576,930).

Claim 17 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Isokawa (U.S. Patent No. 6,121,637).

Claims 1-9 Distinguish over References

Claim 1 calls for among other limitations: a suspension media which supportably surrounds the light emitting element within the mounting area. Stein discloses LED 3 positioned on a system carrier 1 which is extrusion-coated with the optically transparent light-emitting channels 4 for the individual segments. (Col. 2, lines 42-48). Light-emitting channels 4 have no connection to one another. (Col. 2, lines 49-50). A supporting web 2 extends transversely by means of two interconnects of carrier 1. (Col. 3, lines 17-20). The

LED chip is arranged on one interconnect. (Col. 3, lines 20-21). The suspension media of Stein does not “supportably surround” the LED as claimed in claim 1. Stein discloses the LED which is attached to the carrier which, in turn, is attached to the web. Thus, because the LED is supported by the frame and is not supported by the suspension media, Stein does not anticipate claims 1-9. It is therefore respectfully submitted that **claim 1 and dependent claims 2-9** distinguish patentably over Stein.

Claims 14, 16-17, and 19 Distinguish over References

Claim 14 calls for among other limitations: the spacing element and the affixing means surroundingly support the semiconductor device in a suspended state within the mounting area. Isokawa discloses an LED 3 which is bonded onto the electrode 2 by the bonding material 19. (Col. 7, lines 55-56). The LED is covered with a transparent resin 6. The LED of Isokawa is not “surroundingly supported” by the bonding material and the resin. Isokawa discloses the LED that is attached to the bonding material. Thus, because the LED is attached to the bonding material and does not suspendibly float, Isokawa does not anticipate claims 14, 16 and 19. It is therefore respectfully submitted that **claim 14 and dependent claims 16-17 and 19** distinguish patentably over Isokawa.


CONCLUSION

For the reasons detailed above, it is respectfully submitted all claims remaining in the application (**Claims 1-9, 14, 16-17 and 19**) are now in condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

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9/28/04
Date

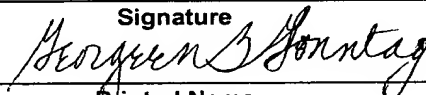


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Date September 28, 2004

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